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QUESTIONS PERTINENT TO THIS ISSUE

1. WHAT WAS THE PERCENT OF INCREASE IN THE PLANTING OF HYBRIDS IN N. C. IN 1951?
2. COMPARE JUNE 15 FOOD PRICES WITH PRICES A YEAR AGO.
3. HOW DO THE STATE BEE COLONY NUMBERS COMPARE WITH LAST YEAR?
4. DID FARM WAGE RATES INCREASE FROM JULY 1, 1950 TO JULY 1, 1951?
5. WHAT IS THE JULY 15 ALL FARM PRODUCTS INDEX?
6. HOW DO JULY GRAIN STOCKS COMPARE WITH A YEAR EARLIER?
7. WHAT IS THE U. S. PARITY RATIO FOR JULY?
8. GIVE JUNE COMMERCIAL HATCHERY PRODUCTION?
9. WHAT IS THE PERCENT OF DECREASE IN THE ACREAGE OF SWEET POTATOES IN 1951?

No. 90

RALEIGH, N. C.

AUGUST 3, 1951

AGRICULTURAL PRICES AND OTHER CURRENT ITEMS

FARM WAGE RATES UP

Farm wage rates in North Carolina continue to advance. On July 1, the farm wage rate index was 566 percent of the 1910-14 base period average -- up 30 points from January 1 and 47 points higher than on July 1, 1950.

Tar Heel farmers report that as of July 1 they were paying hired workers \$3.80 per day with house furnished, and \$4.50 per day without room and board, or 35 cents per day more than on the same date a year ago. Hourly wage rates during the same period advanced from 48 cents to 53 cents per hour.

DAILY AND HOURLY FARM WAGE RATES N. C. AND SOUTH ATLANTIC STATES COMPARED

AREA AND CLASSIFICATION	JULY 1 1950	JULY 1 1951
NORTH CAROLINA		
PER DAY: WITH HOUSE....	3.45	3.80
WITHOUT BOARD OR ROOM.	4.15	4.50
PER HOUR:		
WITHOUT BOARD OR ROOM.	.48	.53
SOUTH ATLANTIC STATES		
PER DAY: WITH HOUSE....	3.25	3.70
WITHOUT BOARD OR ROOM.	3.90	4.40
PER HOUR:		
WITHOUT BOARD OR ROOM.	.48	.54

EGG OUTPUT ON SEASONAL DECLINE

Production of eggs by North Carolina farm flocks during June totaled 92 million eggs. This was a drop of 17 percent from May production and bears out the normal seasonal decline in egg production at this time of the year. The number of layers on farms also showed a drop from the previous month. This, too, is seasonal. In general the average number of layers on farms by months for this year has been at a lower level than in 1950. It follows, of course, that total egg production by months would also be at a lower level.

STATE BEE COLONY NUMBERS UP 2 PERCENT

A total of 189,000 colonies of bees were on hand July 1 in North Carolina, according to reports from beekeepers including both farm and non-farm apiaries. This is an increase of 2 percent over the number of colonies on hand a year earlier.

The 23,000 new colonies added in the spring were mostly offset by losses of 20,000 colonies during the winter and spring months. Losses during the 1950-51 winter and spring months, however, were 2,000 colonies less than those during the 1949-50 season.

Based on July 1 reports, the condition of colonies at 87 percent of normal was up 4 percent from the same date last year. The condition of nectar plants, however, was down to 77 percent compared to 79 percent on July 1, 1950.

Across the Nation, reports indi-

(Continued on Page 4)

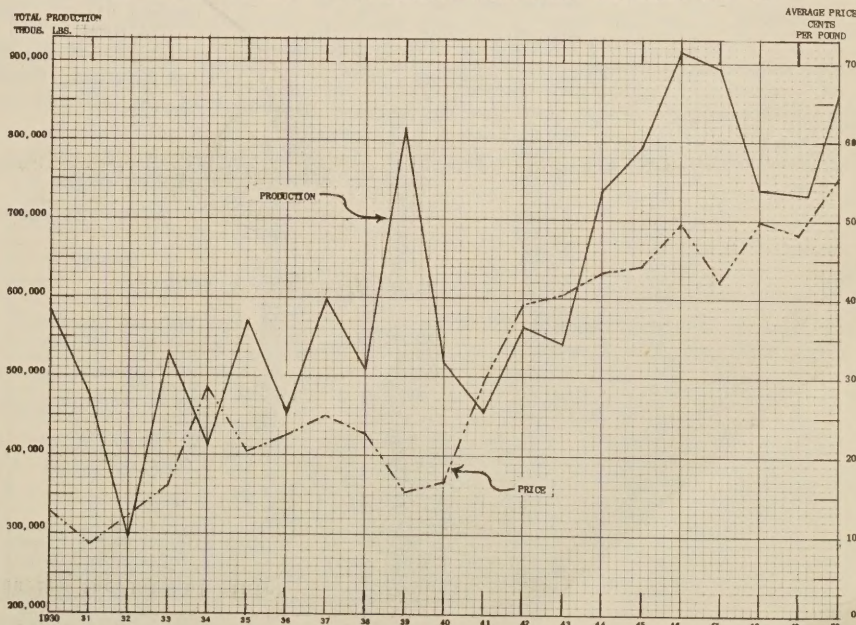
CHICK HATCHINGS ABOVE LAST YEAR

The output of chicks in North Carolina continues at a high level as indicated by the 5,209,000 chicks hatched during June. This is 25 percent larger than the 4,181,000 chicks hatched in June 1950 and is 58 percent larger than the 1945-49 average June output. The principal cause for continued large hatchings for this time of year comes from the commercial broiler industry for which the demand for chicks of heavy breeds continues strong.

Hatcheries in the Chatham and Wilkes commercial broiler areas reported 2,101,611 chicks hatched during June, showing an 11 percent drop from May hatchings but 31 percent greater than June hatchings a year ago.

For the first six months of 1951 a total of 37,129,000 chicks were hatched -- 9 percent more chicks than were hatched for the same six months period last year.

FLUE-CURED TOBACCO: NORTH CAROLINA PRODUCTION AND PRICE 1930-50



N. C. PRICES RECEIVED INDEX

The "All Farm Products" index of prices received by North Carolina farmers at local markets dropped 21 points during the month ended July 15. The July 15 "All Farm Products" index at 292 compares with 313 in mid-June and is the lowest since August 1950.

Decreases in grain, cotton and cottonseed prices were responsible for the sharp drop in the index during the month.

Prices of all grains dropped during the month ended July 15. Wheat declined 18 cents per bushel; barley - 9 cents; rye - 5 cents; corn - 3 cents and oats 2 cents per bushel sending the grain commodity index down 10 points to 180.

The cotton and cottonseed commodity index at 320 was 37 points below the June 15 index. Cotton prices were down 3.9 cents per pound and cottonseed prices dropped from \$98.00 per ton on June 15 to \$78.00 per ton on July 15.

The meat animals commodity index increased 2 points during the month. This increase was due to a 60 cents per hundredweight rise in pork prices. Cattle and sheep prices were unchanged during the month, while lower prices were received for veal calves and lambs.

An increase of 4.1 cents per dozen in egg prices more than offset the decline of 1.4 cents per pound in the price of chickens. As a result, the poultry commodity index on July 15 at 266 was up 11 points from mid-June.

The dairy products index on July 15 was 239, up one point from June 15. The increase was due to the advance of .1 cent per quart in retail milk prices. All other dairy products remained unchanged.

The miscellaneous commodity index also increased 1 point to 231. Prices received for peanuts and sweetpotatoes advanced during the month while soybeans, cowpeas, wool and apples declined.

The ratio of prices received by North Carolina farmers to prices paid by U. S. farmers declined 7 points during the month. Prices received by North Carolina farmers dropped 21 points while prices paid by U. S. farmers declined only 1 point.

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS JULY 15, 1951

WITH COMPARISONS

COMMODITY	UNIT	NORTH CAROLINA		U. S.
		JUNE 15 1951	JULY 15 1951	JULY 15 1951
- DOLLARS -				
CORN.....	BU.	1.67	1.64	1.63
WHEAT.....	BU.	2.14	1.96	2.05
OATS.....	BU.	.85	.83	.783
BARLEY.....	BU.	1.35	1.26	1.17
RYE.....	BU.	2.15	2.10	1.55
SOYBEANS.....	BU.	2.95	2.70	2.86
COWPEAS.....	BU.	4.90	4.75	4.29
PEANUTS.....	LB.	.114	.116	.108
COTTON.....	LB.	.443	.404	.391
COTTONSEED.....	TON	98.00	78.00	78.00
WOOL.....	LB.	1.10	1.00	.865
HOGS.....	CWT.	20.80	21.40	20.80
BEEF CATTLE.....	CWT.	23.30	23.30	29.00
VEAL CALVES.....	CWT.	33.60	33.00	32.50
SHEEP.....	CWT.	13.00	13.00	15.50
LAMBS.....	CWT.	32.20	30.90	30.20
MILK COWS.....	HEAD	171.00	174.00	246.00
CHICKENS.....	LB.	.294	.28	.27
EGGS.....	DOZ.	.494	.535	.466
MILK, WHLSE.....	CWT.	5.25	5.25 ^{a/}	4.30 ^{a/}
RETAIL.....	QT.	.209	.210	.198
BUTTER.....	LB.	.56	.56	.602
BUTTERFAT.....	LB.	.57	.57	.688
HAY, ALL BALED.....	TON	29.10	28.20	20.20
POTATOES.....	BU.	1.30	1.30	1.18
SWEET POTATOES.....	BU.	2.25	2.35	2.19
APPLES COMMERCIAL.....	BU.	2.05	1.85	1.93
LESPEDeza SEED.....	CWT.	10.80	10.90	9.83
KOREAN.....	CWT.	9.20	9.20	-
KOBE.....	CWT.	12.40	12.50	-
COM. & TENN. 76.....	CWT.	16.00	16.00	-
SERICEA.....	CWT.	19.00	19.00	-

a/ Preliminary

COMPARISON OF U. S. PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS
AND PARITY PRICES

COMMODITY	PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS		PARITY OR COMPARABLE PRICES		AVERAGE PRICES AS PERCENTAGE OF PARITY	
	JUNE 15 1951	JULY 15 1951	JUNE 15 1951	JULY 15 1951	JUNE 15 1951	JULY 15 1951
- DOLLARS -						
COTTON, LB.....	.420	.391	.340	.338	124	116
WHEAT, BU.....	2.08	2.05	2.42	2.41	86	85
CORN, BU.....	1.62	1.63	1.76	1.75	92	93
OATS, BU.....	.829	.783	.98c/	.98c/	85	80
BARLEY, BU.....	1.22	1.17	1.53c/	1.52c/	80	77
RYE, BU.....	1.60	1.55	1.77c/	1.77c/	-	88
BEEF CATTLE, CWT.	29.50	29.00	19.90	19.80	148	146
HOGS, CWT.....	21.10	20.80	21.40	21.30	99	98
LAMBS, CWT.....	31.70	30.20	21.80	21.70	145	139
CHICKENS, LB.....	.273	.27	.314	.313	87	86
EGGS, DOZ.....	.447	.466	.53c/	.53c/	94c/	91c/
MILK, WHLSE, CWT.	4.19b/	4.30a/	4.81	4.79	98a/	96a/

a/ Preliminary b/ Revised

c/ Transitional parity, 90 percent (95 percent during 1950) of parity price computed under formula in use prior to January 1, 1950.

d/ Percentage of seasonally adjusted prices to parity prices.

PRICES RECEIVED CONTINUE DOWN
PARITY RATIO OFF 3 POINTS

Prices received by farmers averaged lower for the fifth consecutive month and at 294 percent of their 1910-14 average in mid-July were 2.3 percent below June 15th but still 11.8 percent above a year ago. As was the case a month ago lower prices were reported for a majority of farm products with the most important decreases occurring this month in prices of cotton, meat animals, oil-bearing crops, peaches, and oranges. Moderate increases occurred in prices for milk, eggs, most vegetables, grapefruit and apples.

Downturns in farm wage rates (after seasonal adjustment) and in prices paid by farmers for commodities used in production were not of sufficient importance to lower the July Parity Index (Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, and Wage Rates) below the revised index computed for June. Living costs were steady during the month. At 232 percent of its 1910-14 average in mid-July, the Parity Index is now only 10 percent higher than a year ago.

The drop in the Index of Prices Received by Farmers, with no change in the Index of Prices Paid by farmers, including Interest, Taxes, and Wage Rates, resulted in a decrease in the Parity Ratio to 104.

NORTH CAROLINA AND UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS
(N.C. PRICES RECEIVED 1909-14 = 100 PERCENT)

COMMODITY	JUNE 15 1951	JULY 15 1951	JULY 15 1950	JULY 15 1949	JULY 15 1948
NORTH CAROLINA INDEX NUMBERS					
ALL FARM PRODUCTS..	313	292	251	237	264
COTTON & COTTONSEED	357	320	263	241	271
GRAINS.....	190	180	181	166	211
MEAT ANIMALS.....	424	440	402	356	404
POULTRY.....	255	266	217	252	262
DAIRY PRODUCTS.....	238	239	220	217	234
TOBACCO.....	-	-	-	-	-
MISCELLANEOUS.....	230	231	223	222	236
RATIO OF PRICES RECEIVED TO PAID..	111	104	98	97	106
UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS					
PRICES RECEIVED....	-	-	-	-	-
PRICES PAID.....	301	294	263	249	301
INTEREST & TAXES..	-	-	-	-	-
RATIO OF PRICES RECEIVED TO PAID..	283	282	256	244	251
RECEIVED TO PAID..	106	104	103	102	120

a/ Ratio of N. C. prices received to U. S. prices paid.

AVERAGE PRICES PAID BY NORTH CAROLINA AND UNITED STATES FARMERS FOR SPECIFIED FOOD ITEMS WITH COMPARISONS, 1950-1951

ITEMS	UNIT	NORTH CAROLINA			UNITED STATES		
		MAR. 15 1951	JUNE 15 1951	JUNE 15 1950	MAR. 15 1951	JUNE 15 1951	JUNE 15 1950
CENTS							
SUGAR.....	PER 10 LB.	105.0	105.0	95.0	103.0	104.0	96.2
FLOUR.....	PER 25 LB.	215.0	215.0	200.0	214.0	215.0	199.0
BREAD, WHITE.....	PER LB.	16.6	16.6	14.8	15.9	15.9	14.1
CORN MEAL.....	PER LB.	6.3	5.9	5.4	7.04	6.94	6.01
ROLLED OATS, PACKAGED.....	PER LB.	15.4	15.0	14.2	13.3	13.5	12.2
RICE.....	PER LB.	18.8	19.2	17.6	18.0	18.1	16.6
BACON, SLICED.....	PER LB.	62.0	60.0	54.0	61.0	60.2	54.2
ROUND STEAK.....	PER LB.	98.0	100.0	85.0	95.2	100.0	84.7
PORK CHOPS.....	PER LB.	-	-	-	65.8	65.2	66.1
LARD.....	PER LB.	28.0	27.0	19.4	26.9	25.6	18.1
BUTTER.....	PER LB.	88.0	83.0	74.0	80.5	79.8	70.5
CHEESE, AMERICAN.....	PER LB.	62.0	61.0	53.0	61.3	60.2	52.1
COFFEE.....	PER LB.	87.0	87.0	73.0	88.7	88.7	74.2
TEA, ORANGE PEKOE.....	PER LB.	130.0	135.0	125.0	132.0	131.0	129.0
ORANGES, 216'S.....	PER DOZ.	41.0	41.0	42.0	47.6	47.1	47.4
BANANAS.....	PER LB.	15.2	15.0	15.1	17.1	17.0	16.9
APPLES, FRESH.....	PER LB.	11.7	11.4	12.5	11.6	12.5	14.4

FOOD PRICES SHOW SLIGHT CHANGE FROM MARCH 15 LEVEL

Average prices paid by North Carolina farmers for specified food items on June 15 showed little change from prices paid three months earlier. Round steak was up 2 cents per pound and tea was up 5 cents per pound from March 15. Bacon, at 60 cents was 2 cents per pound cheaper than on March 15 and lard was 1 cent per pound lower. Dairy products and fruits showed slight declines while other food prices were mostly unchanged. Compared with the same date of last year, however, June 15 prices for all foods except fruits were up significantly.

JULY 1 CORN STOCKS LARGEST OF RECORD

Stocks of corn in all positions in North Carolina on July 1 totalled 17,957,000 bushels. This is 16 percent greater than the 15,440,000 bushels stored in the State on the same date last year, and the largest July 1 corn stocks of record. Wheat stocks totaled 372,000 bushels -- down 7 percent from July 1, 1950. Oats stocks of 1,354,000 bushels are the largest carryover since 1948 and the second largest of record for the State. Barley stocks of 63,000 bushels compare with 56,000 in all positions in North Carolina on July 1, 1950.

In the United States, the 1,270 million bushels of corn in all positions on July 1, while about 11 percent less than on July 1, 1950, was nearly up to the July 1, 1949 reserve and otherwise larger than any July 1 in the 9 years of record. Oats stocks of 298 million bushels are the largest of record and the 93 million bushels carryover of barley is slightly above average. Old wheat stocks of 395 million bushels are 32 million bushels below July 1 of last year. The soybean carryover on July 1 at 51.6 million bushels is the largest of record for that date.

FEED PRICES PAID BY FARMERS JULY 15, 1951

WITH COMPARISONS

FEED PER HUNDREDWEIGHT	NORTH CAROLINA		UNITED STATES	
	JUNE 15 1951	JULY 15 1951	JUNE 15 1951	JULY 15 1951
- DOLLARS -				
MIXED DAIRY FEED				
UNDER 29% PROTEIN..	4.20	4.15	4.10	4.08
16% PROTEIN.....	4.00	3.95	4.01	4.01
18% PROTEIN.....	4.15	4.10	4.15	4.09
20% PROTEIN.....	4.40	4.35	4.15	4.14
29% - OVER.....	5.00	5.00	4.90	4.93
HIGH PROTEIN FEEDS				
LINSEED MEAL.....	-	-	4.23	4.21
SOYBEAN MEAL.....	4.50	4.50	4.55	4.69
COTTONSEED MEAL.....	4.40	4.35	4.86	4.77
MEAT SCRAP.....	6.30	6.30	6.27	6.26
GRAIN BY-PRODUCTS				
BRAN.....	3.80	3.80	3.41	3.51
MIDDLINGS.....	3.95	3.95	3.75	3.88
CORN MEAL.....	4.70	4.60	4.12	4.12
CORN GLUTEN.....	-	-	3.43	3.41
POULTRY FEED				
LAYING MASH.....	5.20	5.20	4.88	4.91
SCRATCH GRAIN.....	4.65	4.65	4.48	4.46
CHICK STARTER MASH.	5.40	5.40	5.41	5.41

FEED PRICES SHOW LITTLE CHANGE

Average prices paid by North Carolina farmers for mixed dairy feeds containing less than 29 percent protein declined 5 cents per hundred pounds during the month ended July 15. Prices of dairy feeds containing more than 29 percent protein remained unchanged. Cottonseed meal was down 5 cents and corn meal was 10 cents per hundred pounds cheaper than a month earlier. Other high protein and grain by-products feeds remained unchanged during the month.

JULY 1 GRAIN STOCKS

CROP	NORTH CAROLINA						UNITED STATES					
	ON-FARM		OFF-FARM 1/		TOTAL STOCKS		ON-FARM		OFF-FARM 1/		TOTAL STOCKS	
	1950	1951	1950	1951	1950	1951	1950	1951	1950	1951	1950	1951
- THOUS. BUSHEL -												
CORN.....	15,071	16,698	369	1,259	15,440	17,957	1,060,377	814,923	362,503	455,135	1,422,952	1,270,058
WHEAT.....	244	190	155	182	399	372	67,907	72,738	352,143	322,305	426,760	395,043
OATS.....	768	1,304	30	50	798	1,354	192,392	264,557	27,431	33,686	219,993	298,243
RYE.....	7	5	*	1	*	6	1,974	1,854	7,557	3,328	9,538	5,182
BARLEY.....	50	62	6	1	56	63	30,929	40,194	49,533	52,781	434	92,975
SOYBEANS...	169	179	306	6	475	185	7,064	9,620	39,027	41,938	46,091	51,558

Note: Stocks shown are from the previous year's harvested crop.

1/ Includes, in addition to stocks in Interior Mills, Elevators and Warehouses and Merchant Mills, commercial stocks reported by Grain Branch, PMA, at terminals.

* Unallocated -- to avoid disclosing individual operations.

FARM REPORT

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FARM REPORT

PAGE 4

MILK PRODUCTION DOWN

Milk production on North Carolina farms during June is estimated at 158 million pounds. This is 4 million pounds less than May but 1 million pounds more than June of last year.

The decrease in total milk production during June resulted from lower production per cow, since an estimated 382,000 milk cows were on farms during both May and June. Production per cow during June is estimated at 414 pounds compared with 425 pounds in May.

Dry weather during May reduced the quality and carrying capacity of pastures. Pasture condition improved 7 percent following general rains during June; however, most of the improvement in pastures occurred during the latter part of the month.

HYBRID CORN ACREAGE UP 3%

A total of 818,000 acres or 37.5 percent of North Carolina's corn crop was planted with hybrid seed this year. This compares with 776,000 acres or 34.5 percent in 1950 and 697,000 acres or 31.0 percent in 1949.

The use of hybrid seed has grown steadily since 1938 when only 2,000 acres - one tenth of one percent of the State's total corn acreage, were seeded to hybrids.

Across the Nation, nearly 70 million acres or 81.0 percent of the corn crop has been planted with hybrid seed. This compares with 65.3 million acres, or 77.4 percent, in 1950 and 63.5 million acres or 77.7 percent in 1949. Acreage increases in the North Central States, where hybrids are used extensively, contributed to this year's large hybrid acreage.

CHICKENS RAISED ON FARMS IN 1951 UP 4% FROM 1950

Young chickens on farms in North Carolina in 1951 are estimated at 12,251,000 -- up 4 percent from the 17,549,000 raised in 1950 but 17 percent less than the 1940-49 average of 22,119,000.

This preliminary estimate is based on reports as of June 1 obtained through the rural mail carriers and supplemented by later information from crop correspondents and commercial hatcheries.

The increase in the number of chickens produced reflects a more favorable egg-feed ratio than existed in 1950. Demand for hatching eggs to supply the very heavy demands for broiler chicks has encouraged farmers to raise more pullets for laying flocks.

Across the Nation young chickens on farms in 1951 are estimated at 702,676,000 -- 5 percent more than were raised in 1950, but 10 percent less than the 1940-49 average. Numbers of chickens raised are above those of last year in all but 8 States. Increases from a year ago were 14 percent in the North Atlantic, 13 percent in the West, 4 percent in the West North Central, 3 percent in the South Atlantic and 1 percent in the East North Central and South Central States.

The number of young chickens raised this year and the number of layers on hand June 1 indicate a larger laying flocks on January 1, 1952 than a year earlier. Although there were 2 percent fewer layers on hand June 1, a 5 percent larger crop of chickens raised this year will provide more than enough young pullets to make up this decrease and replace normal culling this fall. Farmers reported on June 1 that 92 percent of their young chickens came from hatcheries compared with 91 percent last year.

SWEETPOTATO ACREAGE CUT SHARPLY

North Carolina's 1951 sweetpotato crop is currently estimated at 4,400,000 bushels -- 35 percent less than the 6,785,000 bushels produced last year and 39 percent less than the 1940-49 average production for the State. A crop of this size would be the smallest produced in North Carolina since 1881.

As of July 1, growers indicate only 40,000 acres of sweetpotatoes will be harvested this year. This is 32 percent less than the 59,000 acres harvested last year, 41 percent below the 1940-49 average of 68,000 acres and the smallest acreage devoted to sweetpotatoes in this State since 1868.

Growers experienced some difficulty in disposing of their crop last year and many were disappointed with the prices they received. These factors, together with increased cotton, tobacco and peanut plantings are largely responsible for the sharp cut in sweetpotato acreage this year.

The July 1 yield estimate of 110 bushels per acre compares with 115 bushels per acre harvested last year.

BEF COLONY NUMBERS (Continued)

cate a decrease of 1 percent from last year in colony numbers. The July 1 estimate of 5,581,000 colonies of bees on hand compares with 5,612,000 in 1950. Winter and spring losses averaged 17 percent compared to 15 percent a year earlier. New spring colonies totaled 1,172,000 or 21 percent of the number of colonies on hand July 1. Last year new colonies accounted for 18 percent of the July holdings. The July 1 condition of colonies at 87 percent compared with 89 percent a year ago.